

Alabama Centers

The Gatekeeper



New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary
www.nobts.edu
February 2014

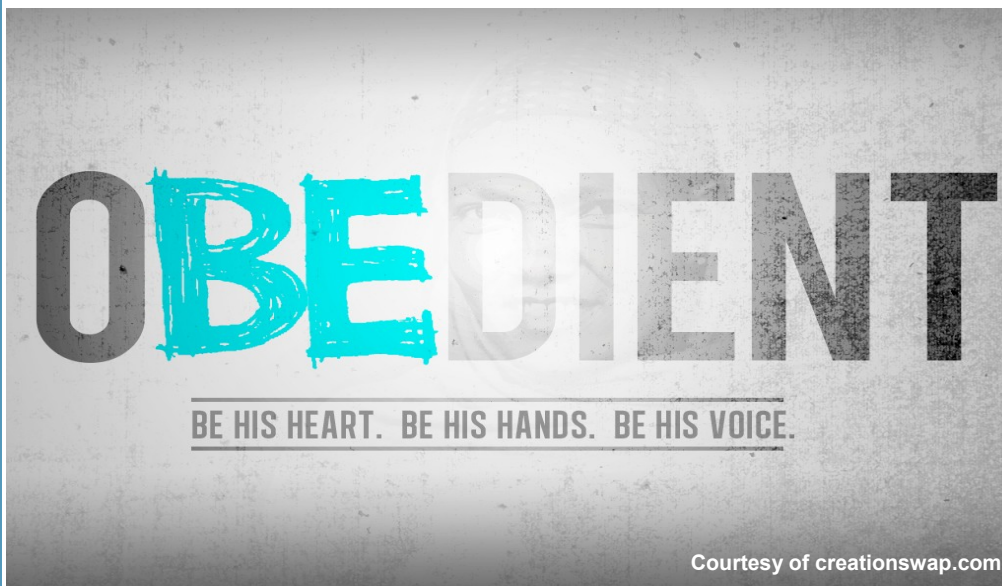
Special Points of Interest:

- **Graduation Application Deadline**—If you plan to graduate this semester please note that the deadline for the application is due TODAY February 17. Apply online at nobts.edu
- **Ecuador Mission Trip**—The deposit deadline for the Ecuador Mission trip (Aug 1-9) is March 1st. Please see Bob or Stephen Hall for more information.
- **Seminary Workday**—Saturday March 15th NOBTS students and faculty will be encouraged to help clean up the office and the modules. If you are interested in helping please contact Dr. Pate.
- **Birmingham Library**—The library and office will be open on Mondays (8am-7pm), Tuesdays (9am-2pm), and Thursdays (10am-2pm).
- **NOBTS eLibrary**—Starting this semester NOBTS has access to eLibrary through Ebsco Host, with access to more than 500 publishers. Visit nobts.edu/library for more information.

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ECUADOR MISSION TRIP SET FOR AUGUST



By Zach Kendrick

Birmingham — NOBTS Birmingham has an exciting mission trip opportunity this summer. On August 1-9, Stephen Hall will be leading a group of students to Ecuador. "We will be working at the edge of the jungle in Ecuador somewhat near the city of Puyo," Hall said. Students will have opportunity to do evangelism and discipleship with the hope of planting a church in the jun-

gle. Hall said, "We will also lead a pastor training course and minister to children in an orphanage." Two classes will be offered for 3 credit hours in conjunction with the trip. The Graduate level course is DISC6390 "Clinical Field Project in Discipleship" and the Undergraduate course is PMCM 3380 "The Mission Experience." Dr. David Chism, Dr. Bob Hall, and Dr. Stephen Hall will be leading the classes. Students can regis-

ter for these classes on Self-serve. The cost of the trip is \$2000, plus the cost of tuition. A \$500 deposit is due by March 1, 2014. All checks, for the trip should be paid to Northpark Baptist Church. Tuition payments will be handled through the NOBTS Business Office. If you would like to sign up for this mission trip or have any questions contact Stephen Hall by email StephenRHall5@gmail.com or call him at 205.540.6491

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The Alabama Centers Gatekeeper is a publication of the NOBTS Birmingham Center. Any ideas for articles, interviews, or news can be sent to: bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com

MEET LEAVELL COLLEGE STUDENT, ZACH CARTER

In this edition of the *Gatekeeper* we would like for you to meet Leavell College student Zach Carter. He is a senior at Leavell College and is looking to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for his Master's. As a former Mormon, he has a unique story to tell of how the Lord used the Mormon church and a popular movie to bring him to faith in Jesus Christ.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Huntsville, AL. My mom is from Maryland and my dad is from Utah.

What is your testimony?

I was raised Mormon, and by Mormon I mean "Mormon of Mormons," not just in name only. My paternal ancestors were bodyguards of Joseph Smith. They trekked across the Oregon Trail to Salt Lake City with Brigham Young. My great-grandfather brought the Mormon faith into Arizona, so needless to say I am in a legacy of Mormons. But when my mom married my step-dad I was forced (against my will) to become inactive in the Mormon Church. I wanted to go to church. I campaigned for about two years to go back to church. As time went on I started to doubt my faith and became agnostic in High School. While in High School my grandfather (mom's dad) passed away. About that same time the movie *Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown came out and so I started



Courtesy Photo

engaging in debate with a Christian friend of mine. She was faithful to share the gospel with me. Every time we talked she would ask the question "Where does Jesus want to take Zach Carter?" The most attractive thing about the gospel to me was even though my friend could not answer all my questions she continued to share the love of Jesus. It was compelling to see the love she had for me through the gospel. There came a point in my life that I stopped fighting and surrendered to Christ. Though I see that as my point of salvation, the Lord had to bring me through a tough year of sanctification and discipleship. I had to work through the baggage of my Mormon faith and sort of detox.

Describe your call to ministry.

During my senior year of High School my youth pastor told me to read Acts 9. As an agnostic I saw myself similar to Paul in that I wanted to attack the Christian faith. As a former Mormon I saw both the Christian and Mormon faith as similar. I realized I had a unique position as a former Mormon and agnostic so it seemed like a natural step to take, because I felt that I was gifted in and was encouraged to pursue writing and speaking.

Are you married? Do you have any kids?

Yes. I married my wife Morgan in May 2013. We met at Passion, she was wearing an Auburn T-shirt and so I went up and talked with her. The rest is history. We do not have any kids, yet.

Where do you serve in ministry?

I served at a church plant in

Montgomery, but I realized I wasn't mature enough to serve so I stepped down. Now I serve in lay positions at Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville where Morgan and I are members.

What is your favorite hobby?

I love to read. I read a lot... like two books a week. I also blog a lot, too. Being married and taking classes I don't have time for any more hobbies.

What is your favorite sport to watch and/or play?

I love to watch football #WarEagle! I played soccer in High School. I wish I was better at baseball.

What is your favorite class?

I really liked discussion in Dr. Drum's "Theology of Paul" and I loved my paper for "Research and Writing."

Besides the Bible what was the last book you read?

Southern Baptist Identity by David Dockery, I give it an A minus. Also *Love, Prayer, and Forgiveness* by Michael Snow.

What is one piece of advice you would give students about their years in seminary?

I would challenge them to think critically in a safe environment. Don't just passively participate in seminary, but actually engage your mind.



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BIRMINGHAM CENTER

Student ID: If you need a student ID, please see Zach to get one made.

Snack Table: Please remember that all snacks and drinks are 50 cents.

Greek Flashcard App: Zondervan has released a new Greek flashcard app for the *Basics of Biblical Greek* curriculum. Cost: \$19.99 on the App Store.

MONTGOMERY CENTER

Key Card: If are not taking classes this semester please drop off your keycards at the Heritage Church Office

RAINSVILLE CENTER

Please see Zach Richards for any announcements at the North East Alabama Center.

MINISTRY POSITIONS

Youth Pastor: Grace Baptist Church in Fayette, AL is currently seeking a part-time Youth Pastor. If you are interested please contact Dr. Brad Doss at preacherdoss@msn.com

Youth Pastor: Whorton Bend Baptist Church in Gadsden is looking for a new Youth Pastor. If you are interested, please send your resume to Scott Mayo at smay@farmersagent.com or mail it to 2820 Whorton Bend Road, Gadsden, AL 35901

Youth Pastor: Bellbiew Baptist Church in McCalla is looking for a part-time Student Minister to be responsible for leading the youth ministry. Send resume to pastor@bellviewbc.org or mail to 6674 Eastern Valley Road, McCalla, AL 35111

Youth Pastor: Bay Springs Baptist in Shelby, AL is looking for a bi-vocational Youth Pastor. They must be musically gifted and able to work with youth on contemporary music, able to fill the pulpit when needed, enjoy hunting, fishing, and not be afraid to play in the mud. Send resumes to pastor@bayspringslonline.com

TUSCALOOSA CENTER

Launch: The Tuscaloosa Center launches Monday, August 18, 2014, and classes are to be held at the Forest Lake Baptist Church. The semester will meet weekly for fifteen weeks and recess until we start a new semester in January. All credits earned can either stand alone or apply toward either a Bachelor's Degree from Leavell College or Master's degree from NOBTS.

Graduate: Classes to be offered on the graduate (Masters) track are: Proclaiming the Bible, Spiritual Formation I, Introductory Hebrew Grammar, and Pastoral Ministry.

Undergrad: Classes to be offered on the undergraduate track are: Old Testament Survey, Introduction to Counseling, New Testament Interpretation, Personal Spiritual Disciplines, and English Composition.

Interested potential students or professors can contact Billy Austin at [334.312.0843](tel:334.312.0843) or bibbybama@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 17—Graduation Application Deadline

March 1—Registration for Summer Courses

March 1—Ecuador Trip Deposit Deadline

March 15—Seminary Workday

March 24-28—Spring Break and Workshops

April 1-30—Current Student Scholarships

April 18—Good Friday (Office/Library Closed)

May 17—Graduation (Main Campus)

August 1-9—Ecuador Mission Trip

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for fellow students and professors who are leaders of churches. May they lead well.

Pray for our churches, associations, state, and nation.

If you have a prayer request please send it to bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com

LIFEWAY INTROS “PRICE PROMISE” PROGRAM



Lifeway employee Shannon (left) assists a customer at the store on Hwy 280.

By Zach Kendrick

Birmingham—Lifeway Christian Stores is launching a new nationwide program they are calling Price Promise. This program will match the price of any competitor on the same product, thereby allowing the customer to get the best deal. Teresa Renfro, manager of the Hwy 280 store said, "Lifeway has always price matched local 'brick and mortar' competitors like Family Christian Stores and Books-A-Million, but the Price Promise is even better." The Price Promise will now include online competitors like Amazon and CBD as well as discount clubs such as Costco and Sam's Club. "Customers only need to show the competi-

tor's price at check out via a print ad, print out of the web price, or by using smart phone," Renfro said. The program only applies to new items and does not include items sold by a market place individual. Renfro said, "We do not price match individuals who are selling their used books on Ebay or on Amazon." The Price Promise program applies to any product that is sold in the store, not just textbooks. Renfro also wants to remind NOBTS students that they are eligible for a 20 percent discount storewide, on most items. Lifeway is committed to building lasting relationships in ministry and wants their customers to know that they will always receive the best available price.